

Claims 1 – 111 (cancelled)

1 **112. (currently amended)** Apparatus for responding to a request, the request including one or
2 more specifiers referring to objects belonging to a plurality thereof in a distributed database
3 system that includes a plurality of database systems and
4 the apparatus comprising:

5 a first database system of the plurality of database systems;

6 a query analyser that determines whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be
7 interpreted in the first database system; and

8 a redirector which responds to the request when the query analyzer so determines
9 ~~request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in the first database system~~ by causing the
10 request to be executed at least in part in a second database system of the plurality of database
11 systems,

12 the request ~~otherwise~~ being executed in the first database system when the query analyzer does
13 not so determine.

1 **113. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 112 wherein:

2 the objects in the first database system include copies of objects contained in at
3 least one other database system belonging to the distributed database system.

1 **114. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 113 wherein:

2 the first database system functions as a cache with regard to the objects whose copies are
3 included in the first database system.

1 **115. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 113 wherein:

2 the other database system is the second database system.

1 **116. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 115 wherein:
2 the first database system functions as a cache with regard to the second database system.

1 **117. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with any one of claims 112 through
2 116 wherein:
3 the apparatus is local to a server of the type that provides a program executing on the
4 server with a standard interface for querying databases; and
5 the requests include queries received via the standard interface.

1 **118. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 117 wherein:
2 the server obeys the hypertext transfer protocol (http) and the program is a Web
3 application program.

1 **119. (previously presented)** A method of responding to a request, the request including one or
2 more specifiers that refer to one or more objects in a distributed database system that includes a
3 plurality of database systems and
4 the method comprising the steps of:
5 receiving the request in a first database system of the plurality of database systems;
6 determining whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in the
7 first database system; and
8 when the request includes such a specifier, causing the request to be executed at least in
9 part in a second database system of the plurality of database systems.

1 **120. (previously presented)** The method in accordance with claim 119 wherein:
2 the objects in the first database system include copies of objects contained in at least one
3 other database system belonging to the distributed database system,
4 whereby the first database system functions as a cache with regard to the objects whose copies
5 are included in the first database system.

1 **121. (previously presented)** The method in accordance with claim 120 wherein:
2 the other database system is the second database system,
3 whereby the first database system functions as a cache with regard to the second database
4 system.

1 **122. (previously presented)** The method in accordance with any one of claims 119 through 121
2 wherein:
3 the first database system is local to a server of the type that provides a program executing
4 on the server with a standard interface for querying databases; and
5 in the step of receiving the request, the request is received via the standard interface.

1 **123. (previously presented)** The method in accordance with claim 122 wherein:
2 the server obeys the hypertext transfer protocol (http) and the program is a Web
3 application program.

1 **124. (previously presented)** A memory device characterized in that:

the memory device contains code which, when executed in a processor, performs a method of responding to a request, the request including one or more specifiers that refer to one or more objects in a distributed database system that includes a plurality of database systems and the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the request in a first database system of the plurality of database systems;

determining whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in the first database system; and

when the request includes such a specifier, causing the request to be executed at least in part in a second database system of the plurality of database systems.

25. (currently amended) Apparatus for caching copies of objects belonging to a subset of the objects belonging to a first database system that returns an object in response to a request therefor, the request including one or more specifiers referring to the objects and the apparatus comprising:

a second database system that contains the copies;

a query analyser that determines whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in the second database system; and

a redirector that responds to the request when the ~~request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in the second database system~~ query analyzer so determines by causing the request to be executed at least in part in the first database system, the request ~~otherwise~~ being executed in the second database system when the query analyzer does not so determine.

1 **126. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 125 wherein:

2 the apparatus is local to a server of the type that provides a program executing on the
3 server with a standard interface for querying databases; and

4 the requests include queries received via the standard interface.

1 **127. (previously presented)** The apparatus in accordance with claim 126 wherein:

2 the server obeys the hypertext transfer protocol (http) and the program is a Web
3 application program.

1 **128. (previously presented)** A method of responding to a request that includes one or more

2 specifiers referring to one or more objects belonging to a set of objects where the objects

3 are stored in a first database system and copies of a subset of the set of objects are stored

4 in a second database system,

5 the method comprising the steps of:

6 receiving the request in the second database system;

7 determining whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in the

8 second database system; and

9 when the request includes such a specifier, causing the request to be executed at least in

10 part in the first database system instead of in the second database system.

1 **129. (previously presented)** The method in accordance with claim 128 wherein:

2 the second database system is local to a server of the type that provides a program
3 executing on the server with a standard interface for querying databases; and
4 in the step of receiving the request, the request is received via the standard interface.

1 **130. (previously presented)** The method in accordance with claim 129 wherein:

2 the server obeys the hypertext transfer protocol (http) and the program is a Web
3 application program.

1 **131. (previously presented)** A memory device characterized in that:

2 the memory device contains code which, when executed in a processor, performs
3 a method of responding to a request that includes one or more specifiers referring to
4 objects belonging to a set of objects where the objects are stored in a first database system
5 and copies of a subset of the set of objects are stored in a second database system,
6 the method comprising the steps of:
7 receiving the request in the second database system;
8 determining whether the request includes a specifier that cannot be interpreted in
9 the second database system; and
10 when the request includes such a specifier, causing the request to be executed at
11 least in part in the first database system instead of in the second database system.